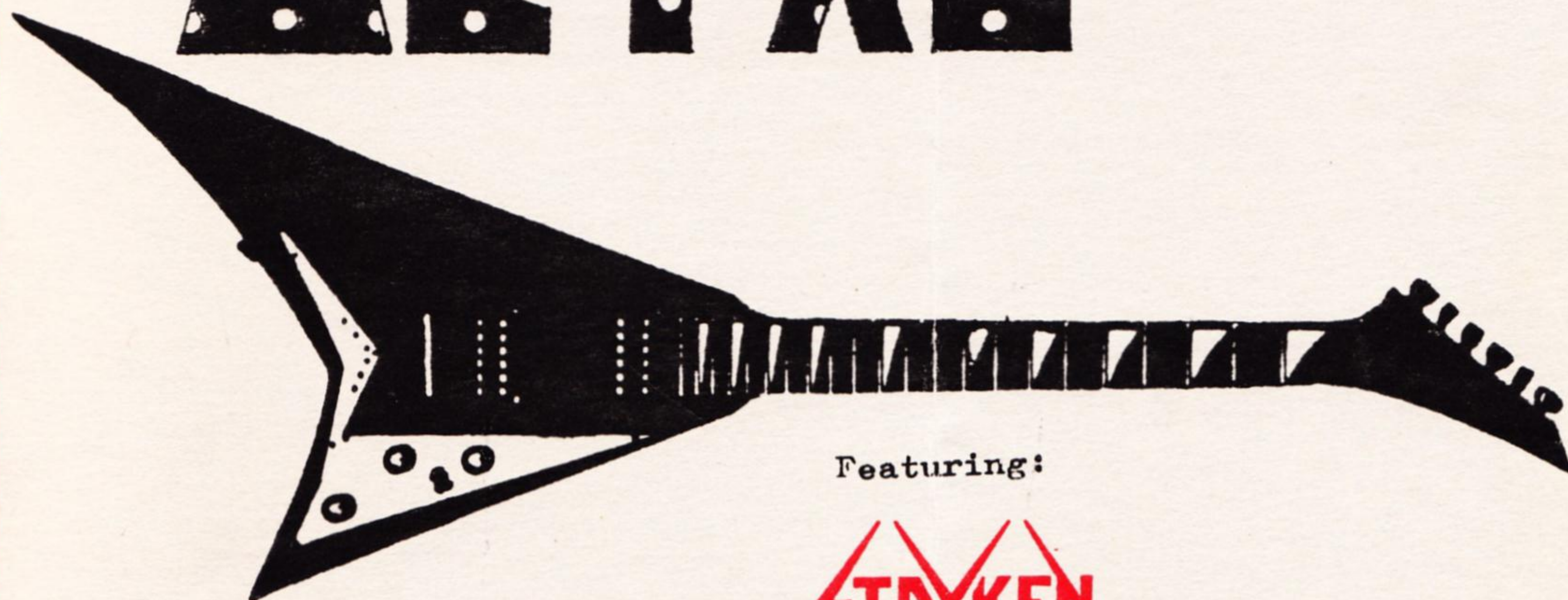


HEAVEN'S METAL

VOLUME II
ISSUE # 1

75¢



Featuring:

STRYKEN



Ezekiel Wade

Dale Streiker

Joey Knight

Stephen Streiker



Stryken. The name sounds metal enough, doesn't it? This group of four Christians rock hard from the thriving metropolis of Leander, Texas, just outside of Austin. Stryken is: Joey Knight on drums, Ezekiel Wade on bass, Dale Streiker on lead and backing vocals and guitar, and Stephen Streiker on rhythm guitar and lead vocals.

Stryken and HEAVEN'S METAL have an interesting relationship. Back in issue number 2, The Trading Post section ran an ad for Stryken. "Bass Guitarist: If you are 18-24 and feel you are called of God to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ thru rock and roll, call us. The group's name is not as important as its goals."

The man who took the job, Ezekiel Wade, was the bass player for the group Frontrunner, who released a metal single called STREET TALK.

It's interesting to note the line "The group's name is not as important as its goals." Dale and Stephen Streiker were still deliberating whether or not they should keep their former name, Stryker, or not.

The similarities to Stryper's name are obvious, and Dale and Steve wanted to do what was right.

"We were Stryker for several years," says Dale. "In April, 1978 is when we originally used that name." They had their name before Stryper did, but Stryper made a world-wide impact before they did. So, they decided to change it.

"After a lot of deliberation, we had a lot of names written on a sheet. Stephen and I came to it (Stryken) the same day. We'd been

prayin' about it for a couple of months. We weren't going to do anything 'til we got the name straightened out, because of that controversy. To keep any problems from ever arising, we decided to change the name. We felt the Lord led us to use this name (Stryken)."

"Some people said, 'You need to change it all-completely and totally,'" relates Steve. "I wonder if after John the Baptist got his head cut off, I wonder if John the Prophet was out and everybody said 'Oh, you need to change your name. Remember John the Baptist? He was great. You can't top him, so you might as well change your name.' Well, John was the only disciple that was at the foot of the cross when Christ was crucified too. A bunch of women and one man. All the rest of the disciples were running scared. I don't know. I guess you can have the same names."

Both Dale and Steve received the confirmation of the name on the same morning. "I came up to Steve," says Dale, "and said, 'I need to talk to you.'" They took a walk and told each other what the name they felt God wanted, and it was Stryken.

"We waited and Joey asked, 'What is it? What is it?' We told him, 'We're not gonna tell ya. You have to pray about it and we hope an angel comes to you and he blows your mind over night.' Two mornings later he was blow-drying his hair and it hit him. He comes back and says, 'This is it.' We said, 'Okay, we've got unification, it's set.'"

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Stryken has caught flak for using lightening bolts. "We try not to do anything without scriptures to back it up," says Dale. Matthew 24:27 is the verse they use to explain their lightening bolt symbol. "It signifies the second coming of Christ," says Steve. "So many people give ground to the devil, it's incredible! How Christians say 'Oh! You can't use this, this is his.' That's what they used to do with rock and roll. 'You can't use rock and roll. It's of the devil. You can't use

radio, you can't use television, when they first came out.'

"Let's start ripping down these strongholds of Satan, instead of helping him," says Steve.

"Exactly," says Dale. "Let's take every piece we can take away from him. Every little bit of ground."

"Isn't it strange how powerless Christians project themselves as being?" asks Steve.

"There's a new breed though," says Dale, "who are standing on some heads."

"There are a lot of Christians who don't realize that the Christian has great power over Satan," says drummer Joey Knight. "I think that the kids that are beginning to realize that are always held back by the real conservative Christians who say, 'Ah, don't mess around with that. That's of the devil. That's what Satan wants. You'll get yourself into trouble. You just sing about Jesus and how Jesus does all this for you. You just lead a quiet, simple life and you marry a Christian girl and you'll have Christian kids.'"

"The problem has been in the world, is that Christians have done nothing for so long," says Dale. "They don't really tell anybody about their faith unless someone pretty well beats it out of them, you know? If we continue that way, we're in a lot of trouble. I think there's gonna be a big turnaround in America. It's starting, you can feel it. Kids are starting to stand up."

Stryken stands up. I joined with 'em in mid-June when they joined Citizens Against Pornography, picketing at a porno theater--in their stage costumes.

"Basically," explains Dale, "what we've been doing is goin' to the world and that's been rough. Recently we've seen the need for Christian support."

"I feel we're called to take the gospel to the world. We have a lot of cousins and uncles that are missionaries. Before they go, they get their support from churches and Christian organizations. That's why we decided to put an ad in CCM. We said, 'Hey, wait a minute. We're missionaries to America.' We need

that Christian support. To go out there without it would be insane. We'd have no prayer, other than who knew us, and no financial support at all. We've got to have some kind of help. So, it's no different than missionaries. We're calling on the Christians to support us."

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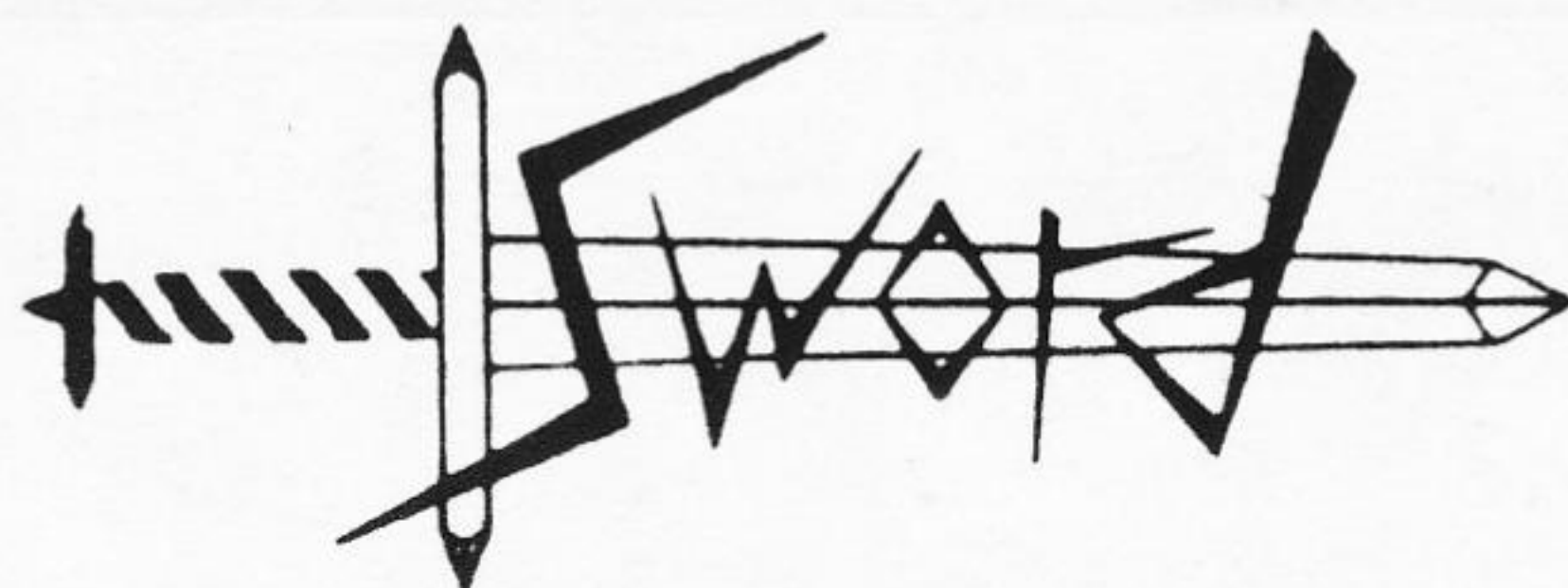
Their live show is good and heavy. Two rocky numbers stand out, as well as two ballads. ROCK ON, the single they released, sounds great live. The other heavy one is called SAY NO, which Steve describes as "a metal anthem to say no to drugs."

"A lot of the songs are either from a personal experience that happened to one of us or to someone very close to us," says Joey. "Our songs deal with everything from abortion, child molestation and drugs to revelations that the Lord has laid upon our hearts, such as end times. The songs are all close to home and it's gonna hit close to home for a lot of kids out there because they're going through exactly those things. A lot of times the songs don't sound positive as you're listening to 'em, but it gets to the point. You're going through this, and here is what you need to get out of it."

"There's a light at the end of the tunnel each time," concludes Steve.

Each member of the band has worked with kids at one time or another. This experience, as well as their lyrics, show a heart to minister to the young people out there.

Spiritually, the band has been inspired by Jerry Falwell. They call him a headbanger because he steps on people's heads. He's not ashamed of the gospel. "I know a lot of Christians who knock Jerry Falwell. They say, 'I don't exactly agree with this, I don't exactly agree with that.' Well, stop telling me all the things you don't exactly agree with and support him on the things you do agree with. That's where Christians are screwing each other over. I know for a fact that Jerry Falwell wouldn't support our group, because he's anti-rock 'n' roll. I'm praying that one day he'll change. The Liberty Singers
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This Sword is unsheathed and annointed to carry God's Word to a dying world. This isn't a flimsy plastic sword, this Sword is metal. Reaching out in the dark, disgusting and vile world that is L.A.'s metal scene, Sword has a message that changes lives.

The guitars are fast and meaty. The songs on their demo, THE MESSAGE, FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT and THE BATTLE, have catchy hooks. THE BATTLE is my favorite cut on the demo because it starts out with a melodic, acoustic intro. The vocals are soft and slow until the lyrics demand a stronger voice: "His lies, they surround me/ The voices fill the air/ You know, it's so hard sometimes/ To tell them apart. There's just no way that I

could make it/ Traveling on my own. Each fiery dart he throws/ He's aiming for my heart/ But when I put my armor on/ I'm safe within your hand. Your Words are a mighty two-edged sword/ With it. Well, I'll make my stand."

If you like your rock very loud and devoid of pop influences, Sword will pierce your heart. Sword is: Bill Kent on lead vocals and guitars; Dirk Duhistine on bass and vocals; Robbie Pellerino on drums; Ron Rittmeister on lead guitar.

If you'd like to order: their 3-song demo, send \$3; 8x10 black and white photo, \$1; bumper stickers, \$1. Make checks or money orders to Sword, P.O. Box 7523, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359.

WISDOM- FACE TO FACE, on Straight Ahead Records.

I saw Wisdom open up for Daniel Amos, The Daniel Band and Mylon LeFevre in Houston, Texas in 1984. I came away with the impression: "Wow! Those guys are talented. They could be the next Triumph. If only they had more consistently-good songs.

It's two years later and their album, FACE TO FACE, is out. Their talent is evident here. They play the style of music I really love: folky acoustic stuff mixed with multiple harmonies, spacey keyboard interludes, driving guitar rhythms and singing guitar solos.

DEVIL'S LIES starts off similar to the acoustic rhythms in MAGIC POWER by Triumph. (The guitarist even looks like Rik Emmett.) The band unifies to sing, "Stop! Believing in the devil's lies." There's a subdued Eddie Van Halen-style hammer-on lead break near the end of the song.

IN THE AIR is one of the album's high points. It starts off with a great acoustic rhythm and some echo effects for a mesmerizing sound. "Lord, (Lord) I really do believe/ that You died for me/Help me to see/ through Your eyes/what's pleasing in Your sight."

READY OR NOT starts off with a great hammer-on intro that lasts 48 seconds. When I first heard it, I knew I had to buy it so I could turn you on to it. The end of the song returns to the neck of the guitar for a few seconds.

These three songs are the highlights of an 8-song album that glorifies our Lord Jesus. This album could really be the start of a great band! If they start crankin' out some killer songs, they'll be no stopping 'em. The radio stations will have to play 'em.

LEVITICUS- THE STRONGEST POWER.

Leviticus' second album is a vast improvement over last year's I SHALL CONQUER. It received a raving review in Kerrang! last January. This album shows the band tighter than ever.

THE WINNER starts off this bone-crunching album, declaring the victory Jesus won on the cross. Next is DEBORAH AND BARAK, a song that conveys the story in Judges 4.

ON THE ROCK is one of my favorites because the chorus shows the Swedish accent of the singer, Hakan Andersson. This song is about basing a relationship on Jesus--The Rock.

KING OF KINGS is a great hard rock praise song. STAY WITH US has a great catchy rhythm, which resounds in your mind long after your ears stop ringing. Mixed near the end of the song is the message: "Give us light, give us sound, more light! and will power. Let's rock and roll!"

I GOT POWER screams along, declaring the power He's given us. LOOK AROUND and I LOVE YOU are two of those songs that wear a drummer out. I hope they don't play 'em back to back in concert. A NEW DAY is a shocker, because it starts out melodically. The bass and drums kick in to bring it to the bass-heavy standard Leviticus has set. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD closes the album with some really good guitar riffs. This album rips!! Play it for a Metallica fan and see what they think. If you would like to buy this album or tape, send \$9 in check or M.O. to Leviticus Forces Fan Club, c/o Lennart Soderlund, Gamlakungsvagen 53 B, 54132, Skovde, Sweden.

SACRED FIRE, on Word Records.

I saw Sacred Fire open for Leslie Phillips in the Fall of '84. They also were the backup band for Leslie's set. I was blown away. They reminded me of the first album by Legs Diamond. They play mean rock with a very artistic flair. They used chimes, keyboards and a flute to add to their live sound. I talked with 'em later and found out they were coming out with an album. I've been waiting ever since. Praise God! The wait is over!

Sacred Fire is led by Dean Harrington, who used to play guitar for Mylon LeFevre and Broken Heart.

You will freak out and not believe it, but the last song on side one, WAITING FOR THE KING, sounds very, very much like Ronnie James Dio. It is an emotional and powerful song. When, not if, you buy the album, play this song first. You might be blown away.

This band rocks with confidence, yet they have tender hearts for the Lord. The entire album isn't full-blown rock, there's some good pop

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FOLLOWER

Follower, who we've been following in Heaven's Metal (excuse me for the terrible pun), has released their debut album. It's on Quicksilver Records, which usually does those "18 Golden Country Hits"-type albums you see advertised on tv. You will be able to find this album in any Sound Warehouse, Target and K-Mart, etc. nation-wide.

"If you can't find the record, tell your store to order it," says rhythm guitarist Kerry Crafton. "It's on Quicksilver Records through Western Merchandising."

++What does the name "Follower" mean?

"It means we're followers of Jesus Christ."

INTO THE SON is the title of this very hot album. Their sound is hard rock with some great guitar work by Brian Wooten. The only thing that comes close that I've heard is Y&T and Aerosmith.

"We're just a hard rock band," says Kerry. "We know how to kick it out, but there's more breadth there to it to the kind of music we wanna do than just one style. There's a consistent sound and energy level throughout this whole thing. There's 2 or 3 that are really headbanging songs, a couple are just hard rock and roll songs, a couple are kinda energetic pop songs and one that's kind of heavy metal funk kind of song."

Lance Keltner, the lead singer for Follower and Ian Ripper, has left Ian Ripper and started his own band, conspicuously titled "The

Lance Keltner Group."

++Are you gonna tour with both bands?

"I don't know what's gonna happen," says Lance. "It's like 'the first tour bus to pull up in front of the house wins.' We'll just have to wait and see."

"I got picked up by Enigma/Capitol, with an album due out in mid-September. Jay Aaron has been producing me. He did all of Eric Johnson's demo tapes. I'm looking forward to a mid-September through November tour."

"I'm real sick right now. I'm gonna have to have an operation on my throat." Let's pray that God will heal him.

STRYKEN cont'd

just can't get to these kids--they just won't listen."

"We can walk up to, like those 'Just Say No' drug rallies and stuff, decked out, and kids will flock," says Dale. "We can get a chance to talk to those kids. There's no way the Liberty Singers can. 'Give me a break!' is what those kids would say and they'd probably run as fast as they can away from them."

++What would you like to say to the Heaven's Metal reader?

"The main thing," says Dale, "is, for any Christian, we need their prayer and support. Prayer is number one. I don't care if they buy anything. Because of the area we're going into, we're gonna need it from day one to the end."

"Whenever you're talking to God, mention us, please," asks Steve.

If you'd like to order buttons, pictures, stickers or their 12" single, write to Chrystal Records, P.O. Box 2107, Cedar Park, TX 78613. (The single is \$4.98 plus \$1.50 for postage, buttons-\$1.50, stickers-\$2, 8x10's-\$3.) For C.O.D. orders, call (512) 259-4824. Their first full-length album, FIRST STRIKE, is due out around September. Their single should also be found in Tower Records.

By the way, Philadelphia's SEARCH AND DESTROY album is very metal and very hot!! A new album, called WARLORD, should be out soon.



Omega is a three-piece rock band for Jesus. I first heard about this band from Vortexx. The first news that struck me about them was the claim that Mark Timson, their lead guitarist, is Christian rock's answer to Gary Moore. This is a mighty big claim to live up to. After listening to their GAMBLER tape extensively, I believe this claim is a possibility. There's nothing totally mind-blowing on the three songs on this tape (GAMBLER, CLOSER TO HEAVEN, WHERE IS HOPE?), but the guitar work shown is very good. The first two songs have the gutsy, distortion-filled sound of a confident guitarist. WHERE IS HOPE? shows that Timo, Mark's nickname, has some emotion in his fingers. All the bridges in this song are very melodic. The proof of Timo's skill will definitely come from seeing him cut loose live.

The rest of this power trio is: John Maddison on lead vocals and

bass; Roger "Big H" Hicks on drums. This band from Nottingham, England formed in 1983. They promise an exciting live show that hopefully will someday be accessible to American audiences.

They have just released a single called LOVE WILL FIND A WAY (I'm pretty sure it's not an Amy Grant rip-off) backed with GIVE YOURSELF TO JESUS. This single has already sold well in the U.K. as well as receiving airplay over there.

This is a choice band that each of us should have in our collection. They have a sound that's all their own and that's not a vague way to say that they're no good. They are very hot! To order the GAMBLER tape, send an international money order for 4 Sterling. This is necessary because it costs them extra to convert U.S. dollars to British Sterling. The LOVE WILL FIND A WAY single costs 3.50 Sterling. The effort required for the international money order will be well worth it. Make the order out to Mark Timson and send to Omega, 36 Broomhill Road, Bulwell, Nottingham, N96 9GW, England



STRYPE HYPE

Timothy Gaines has left Stryper to pursue his own interests. This was a mutual decision by everyone involved. We're gonna miss you Timmy! We love you. May God bless your recent marriage!

Handling the bass position will be Matthew Hurich, who used to play bass for Leatherwolf. He got saved eight months ago and, rumor has it, Michael had the privilege of leading him to the Lord. Janice Sweet, "Stryper Mom," tells me that Matthew will fit right in with Stryper. He's got the metal look and he's an excellent bass player. Statistically, Matthew has long blondish-brown hair, is 20, single and has good vocals--a must for Stryper harmonies. "I think the audience response will be overwhelming!" says Janice.

Other Stryper news...July 18th is the release date for their "limited edition" version of THE YELLOW AND BLACK ATTACK. "It has a totally round album cover with all new art and photos." The vinyl will be pressed in ocean blue. All these extras are good for only the first 50,000 copies. Get it quick! Remember, this is the re-mixed version of THE YELLOW AND

BLACK ATTACK with two new songs added to it, which should be MY LOVE I'LL ALWAYS SHOW and REASON FOR THE SEASON.

The Stryper LIVE IN JAPAN video will be released in VHS Hi-fi stereo on August 1st. It is a one hour, full length look at Stryper's triumphant '85 tour of Japan. It will be available for \$24.95.

Possibly due to Capitol's promotion, SOLDIERS UNDER COMMAND has re-entered the Billboard charts. That's pretty good for a year-old album! Praise God! May He get the Word out to the dead. "I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live." (John 5:25)

Stryper is in the studio now, working hard on their TO HELL WITH THE DEVIL album. It is being produced by Stefan Galfas. All progress so far points to a top-notch record, which will be due out in mid-September. It will be Stryper's first release on Enigma/Capitol.

Stryper will do a couple of gigs at Disneyworld in Orlando, FLA on September 5th and 6th, followed by the making of a major video. They'll kick off their tour around the end of October through mid-December. The European tour should start in March.

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And now...the inside story of the beginnings of Stryper.

"My parents were C&W singers at one time," says Robert. "Our whole family, all the way from my aunts, uncles and cousins to my grandparents, were songwriters and singers. I remember my Dad and Mom saying years ago, 'We'll be behind you guys. If this is what you want to do, you better do it for real. Your rehearsal's your college. Just go for it.' Our folks have been so behind us.

"I got my first drumset at age 8. Michael got his first guitar at 8 or 9. Michael and I had our first band when I was in the sixth grade and he was in the third grade. One of my friends, who was in sixth grade, played guitar and Michael played bass. The bass was bigger than Mike. He hunched over it. We entered a talent contest at a school where we were at

and won first place.

"That kinda kicked things off. I started a band when I was 16. I didn't want anything to do with Mike, because he was a little brat, 13 years old, sabotaging our equipment.

"A couple years later, I could never find a good singer, so at 15 I auditioned Mike. I wasn't too thrilled about it, but he was the best singer that I've ever had. So I said, 'Alright. You can be in the band.'

"I kept asking Oz if he wanted to join and for years he kept saying, 'No, no, no, no, no, no.' Then I went 'that's it. I'm not going to ask you anymore.' I told him that one day. 'Forget it.'

"A couple years went by and Oz's band just couldn't seem to pull together. I guess they were having a hard time finding a singer and a few other things. We weren't too happy with our guitar player at the time, so I asked Oz again. He said, 'Yeah. I should've done it a long time ago. I'll join now.'

"I went to high school with him, so I know him. I even went to jr. high school with him. So, I've been seeing that 'freak-face' Oz around for years now.

"Oz and I used to work in this warehouse together. We had just started. We saw Tim playing in another band and Oz and I used to make this joke practically every day: 'Wouldn't it be great if we could get that guy, named Tim Gaines, to play bass in our band? But no. Nah. He's not a Christian. It's not gonna end up working. We've gotta have every guy in the band a Christian for this really to work right.'

"So, after about five months, we couldn't find another bass player. I found this picture one day when I was in Las Vegas. It was under the seat of my car. I don't know how it got there. It was a picture of Tim's band and he wasn't in the band. I thought, 'that's really weird.'

"So, when I got back home, I got the guy's number, called his house. His mother answered the phone. She said, 'Oh, I'm sorry. Tim's become a Christian. He's not playing in his rock and roll band anymore. He really wants to make a decision as to what

type of music he wants to play.'

"I said, 'Alright. You write my name down and number and you put it in his room and you tell him to call me when he gets home.'

"He called me and came down the next day and joined the band. So, here we joked about it for months, and it just ended up happening.

"For a few years we were called Roxx Regime and we were just starting to build a following. When we got signed with a record company, they said there's one thing they wanted us to do, was to change our name. For two weeks I didn't know what to do, because the minute you change your name, you lose your following. People just don't know who you are.

"I just started thinking, 'My gosh. What are we going to call ourselves? Everything in Roxx Regime was already yellow and black striped, so the name just hit me to call ourselves Stryper, but to spell it with a 'y' instead of with an 'i,' so it couldn't be mistaken for stripper.

"The Isaiah 53:5. We used to have these Bible studies where we used to rehearse and they got too big, so they had to stop. Can you imagine that? Having a Bible study that was so big that the police tell you you have to stop. One night we were looking through Isaiah 53 and we found that verse 'By His stripes we are healed,' and we thought 'Gosh. It talks about what Christ went through for us and it says the word 'stripes' and there's stripes everywhere,' so we put it on there."

Kenny Metcalf joined Stryper for their SOLDIERS tour as a keyboardist to add richness to their live sound. He stood to one side of the stage, usually hid by a wall of speakers.

If you've heard the story about how one of the group's friends came over to their garage and told 'em to give it all to the Lord and it'd take off, well, Kenny was the friend.

"God dealt with me a lot," says Kenny, "to go and talk to them. I couldn't sleep unless I talked to them and told them what I had to tell them. I'd met 'em years before. We played the same hall one night. Time had gone on and I gave my heart to the Lord. At certain times I'd

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DAMASCUS

ROCK WITH A DIFFERENCE

I received a letter from Damascus some time ago. They invited me to review their latest tape. I accepted with great anticipation because their fact sheet described them as an artistic band! This is a claim that intrigued me. Their goal is "to combine the delicate serenity of a symphony with the unbridled intensity of rock." I thought to myself, "Okay, you've given me very high expectations of your tape. I dare you to impress me."

Well, I received the WILL I FIND YOU THERE? tape and I must say I am very impressed. They are polished

in technique and have an artistic flair for emotional creativity. If you appreciate the band Yes, you will undoubtedly like Damascus. Side one has four songs which feature mood changes that progressive or, as some call it, "pomp rock" groups form their music around. A quiet piece flows acoustically along until a winding rhythm takes the song away with some fast electric guitar or organ work. The vocals fit well with the musical sound.

The music is full and rich. Big money production would only make this group mesmerizing. WILL I FIND YOU THERE? promises a bright future for Damascus.

Side two features a nine minute song called THE LOST PRAYER, which holds true to the progressive rock tradition. It is an epic with numerous tempo changes. They tell us that their hope is "to make each word that is sung be felt as much as it is heard; to unite lyric and music so closely that they speak the same language." THE LOST PRAYER

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TNK

I've discovered that one of the neatest things in music is to be blown away by a demo tape. It's great to buy a new album by some new group you've never heard of, but when you get a demo, you usually don't expect much. "If they were good, they'd have a record contract by now."--This rules out the possibility that this could be only the beginning for a hot new group. This, I think, is the case with TNK. I was pleasantly surprised by their demo. It's hot!

I lent it to a friend for some outside opinion and I heard the very favorable response of "I love it. That's my kind of music!" (Yes Tonya, your name's in print.)

This band should be signed, and signed quickly. TNK is: Myke Connell on drums; Fermin Rue-vocals; Phil "Thrill" Galicia on bass and keyboards; and Ray Ronzoni on guitar.

They've recorded a 5-song demo, which they hope to have available for sale by August. "We're getting some airplay on some secular stations," says Myke. (Such as San Antonio's 99.5 KISS FM.) "I think we're too heavy for the Christian stations." That's good news and bad news for Heaven's Metal readers. It's good that there is another heavy band

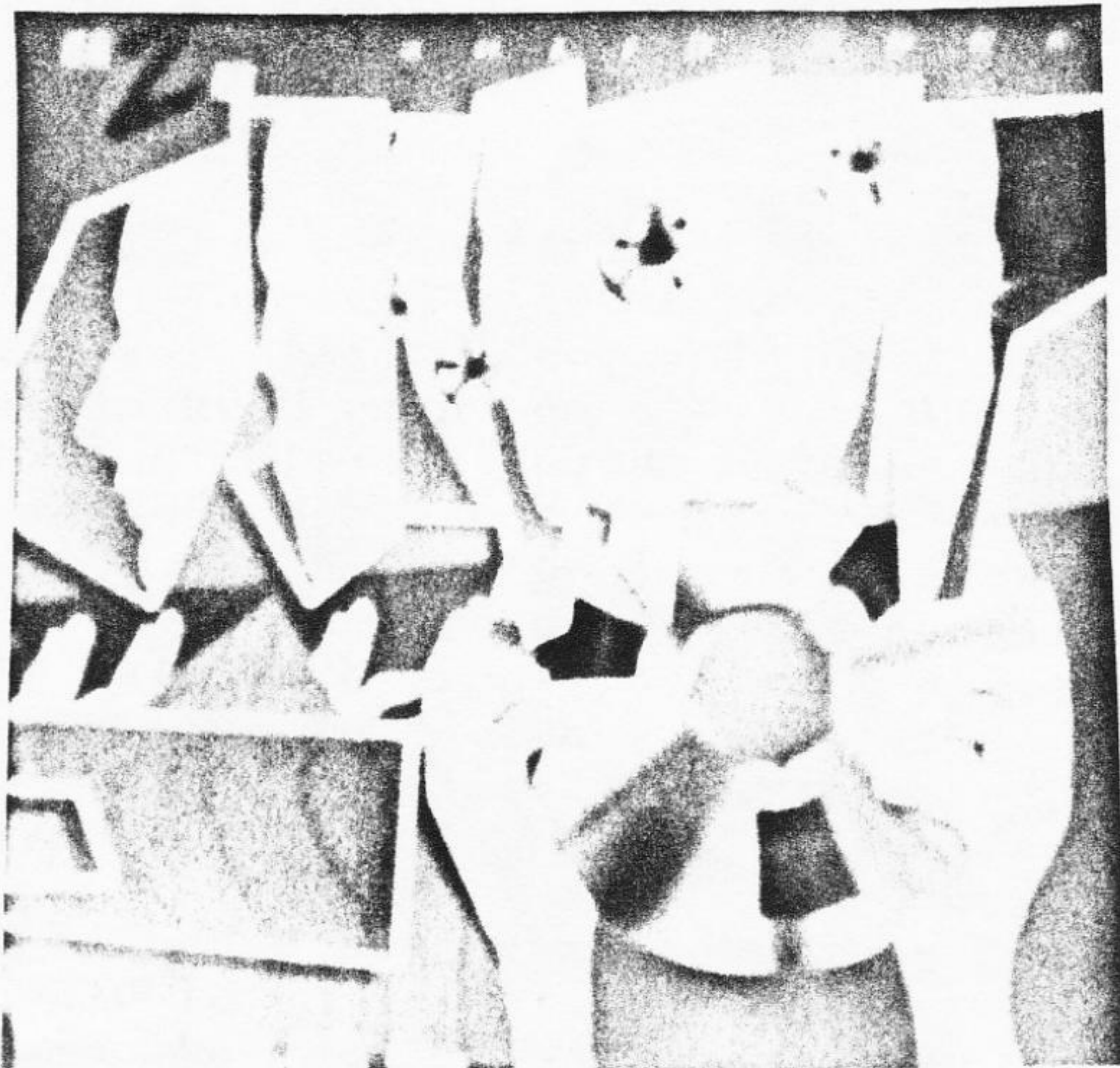
out there in Jesus' name, but it's a drag that we don't have too many Christian stations that'll play it.

All of TNK's concerts have either been held in churches or in the streets at night out-reach programs. Myke tells me they've had the privilege of seeing an average of 20 people make decisions for Christ at some of their shows. "Our set includes a strong salvation message, testimonies and an altar call," says Myke.

I just knew San Antonio had to have some hot Christian metal bands. Now we're starting to see 'em come out. Let's pray for TNK and see what God does. Rest assured that Heaven's Metal will keep you informed and up-to-date with TNK. (The Noble Knights.) Their address is: P.O. Box 21725, San Antonio, TX 78221-0725.

Stryper cont'd
drop in and tell 'em about how I used to want a record contract and now I play for the One who makes the stuff they made records out of. There's no greater honor than to play for God. I'd share with them about serving the Lord with music and how people would come to the concerts and think they were hot, but if they gave their heart to the Lord and got an anointing in their life, that God would use their music and people would still come to their concerts and think they're hot, but lives would change. I told 'em that was more powerful than any rock band and the fact that music is influential and powerful. For a year I came in and witnessed to 'em and shared with 'em and other people shared with 'em along that line in that year too and a time before that even. 'Cause God doesn't just drop somebody in and it's only one person, He does a lot of things with a lot of people. I was just one person.

"What it finally came down to was the Lord was dealing with me and finally one day I came in and said, 'You know you guys have heard it. You know what God expects from you. You're either for Him or against Him. He wants an answer today. You've been puttin' Him off too long.' That day they gave their hearts to the Lord. You see, it wasn't me. It was God. Leave me out of it. It's their ministry. It's what God is doing through them. cont'd on page 14



SOLID ROCK- REAL TO REEL, on Inter-design Records and Tapes.

If I had a Christian FM radio station, this record would definitely be in my rotation. Solid Rock is a Weatherford, Oklahoma-based band of seven years. They've recorded two previous albums, the last of which received a little press attention. They've toured over most of the mid-West and opened for such bands as Sweet Comfort and Nylon LeFevre. The band consists of: Kevin Bartel on bass and vocals; Jerry Johnson on keyboards and lead vocals; Stan Mathis on lead guitar and vocals; Larry Percy on drums and vocals; plus newcomer-to-the-band, Scott Jay on keyboards and vocals.

They are a band that's serious about Jesus, as well as serious about their music. It's not metal, but it's no wimpy. UNCOMMON VALOR and BLIND LEAD THE BLIND are the two rockiest numbers. As you can guess, by the fact that they have two keyboardists, they have pop tendencies. They're creative and a fresh break from the constant head-banging of metal. I'd compare their sound to the Cars' first album or anything by Cheap Trick.

PLASTIC LOVE AFFAIR and ALIEN are social commentaries on the issues of wordly love and abortion from a biblical perspective. A child's voice comes in at the end of ALIEN and says to his mother and father outside the womb: "Mommy, please wipe these tears from my eyes/ It still hurts, even if you can't hear my cries./ Daddy, just give me a chance." I've heard

this song at least six times and every time I've cried. Hopefully it'll make the airwaves.

If you'd like this good album, it's available through Spring Arbor distributors, which means your local bookstore can get it. You can contact the band at Solid Rock, Ltd. P.O. Box 1710, Weatherford, OK 73096.

Damascus cont'd

achieves this fusion between message and music. The first movement presents a fragile and honest confession of a person's doubt of God's presence and the loneliness that is felt.

"Lord I'm scared and alone/ There's someone here but it's not you/ I hear him call, he's calling out my name/ He's pretending that he's you." This is interrupted by the electric guitar trumpeting away the soft sounds. The speed gets faster and angrier as the other voice accuses the character of the song: "Your soul is cursed forever/ Your heart is hardened fast/ Your life of being a hypocrite/ This anguish you can't last/ Maybe you should wish/ That maybe you were dead." This fast and aggressive dialogue of the devil is put at peace with the third movement when Jesus enters with His words of comfort: "I promised to deliver you/ If you only took my hand/ But Life's not always calm at sea/ So you hunger for the land/ I've been the one who's carried you/ When you refused to walk/ Claim the victory for I have won/ And don't listen when Satan talks...You need to live by faith/ And I will never leave your side/ To take away your sin/ That's the reason that I died/ I Love You, I Love You." The music, as well as the words, comfort the listener.

Damascus started performing live in 1982. The band consists of: Dave Coy on drums; Tom McKeown on lead and background vocals, electric guitar, organ, piano and synth; Marc Reich on lead and background vocals, electric and acoustic guitars; Cliff Zweibruck on bass and background vocals. With their sound, one would expect real long hair and satin gowns and other Renaissance-style clothing.

If you would like to purchase the WILL I FIND YOU THERE? tape, send \$6. For their first tape, DAMASCUS 1, send \$3.50. They have t-shirts with

cont'd on page 14

RISE UP!

Refuge



THE DANIEL BAND'S NEW ALBUM IS AVAILABLE ON RECORDS AND TAPES. IF YOU CAN'T FIND IT IN YOUR LOCAL STORE, ORDER DIRECT FROM HEAVEN'S METAL.

TRADING POST

If you have a band & send in info, I'll print it here free! Also, if you want to buy, sell or trade something, send in the vital info.

- + HEAVEN'S METAL SELLS REFUGE RECORDS! (The Daniel Band, Jerusalem, etc.) Cost is \$8.98 plus \$1 for postage on records or tapes.
- + KOSHER RECORDS--FOR THOSE HARD-TO-FIND CHRISTIAN IMPORTS. Contact Larry Miller, 319 A, N. "J" St. Lompoc, CA 93436. Support this brother!!
- + WHITE METAL SHOW. Radio styled, Latest in White Metal. It's got Zer Gabriel on it! \$1 for postage and cassette. White Metal Show, 25814 Booker Way, Hayward, CA 94544. Check it out!
- + ANTHEM --CUTTIN' THRU. \$5 for album or cassette. Ask about their complementary group photo and t-shirt with purchase. Anthem, P.O. Box 52750 Tulsa, OK 74152. Add 75¢ for postage. They're metal/h. rock/female vox.
- + RIZER FAN CLUB. Demos and t-shirts are \$6 each. Rizer Fan Club, 306 W. Riverside St. Phoenix, AZ 85041
- + THE ZINE OF THE TIMES. A radical Christian music fanzine! Covers the Christian underground. Only \$5 for 6 issues. Make checks and M.O. to David Joo, P.O. Box 33, Stirling City, CA 95978.
- + VORTEXX. Great mag! Covers everything. \$2 for sample issue or \$6 for 6-issue sub. Vortexx, 12129 Genesee St. Alden, NY 14004
- + BACK ISSUES OF HEAVEN'S METAL 75¢
- + ROLL AWAY THE STONE. Rock. One year-\$2. John Grassi, RD#2, Kempton, PA 19529
- + THE CUTTING EDGE. Covers everything. One year-\$9 (12 issues) Dan Kennedy, 8303 Hilton Way, Orlando, Fla. 32810
- + If there's a used record store near you, get ahold of any Le Roux album prior to 1983. Jeff Pollard, their old lead vocalist and guitarist, is a strong believer! He was a very heavy influence in leading Kerry Livgren of Kansas to Jesus! It's good rock with good lyrics!
- + GOLGATHA'S ADDRESS!!! Golgatha, 14377 Bancroft Ave. #23, San Leandro, CA 94577.

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MISSIONARY PROJECT

Read Matthew 25:34-40. One of our brothers, William Metzger, would like a walkman with headphones and some Christian metal tapes. Prison rules require all gifts to be sent directly from the store. If you want to send William something, it must be new and sent by the store where purchased. His address is: Box 19033, Green Bay, WI 54307. I wish we could see his face and feel his heart when he receives these gifts!

The members of Jerusalem are taking nine months off to attend a Bible school with their families. These on-fire believers will be even greater prophets to the body! Look for an interview with Ulf in a future issue of Heaven's Metal.

Sacred Fire cont'd

here. The rockers make up for the lulls in between. There's a real cookin' instrumental at the end of the album named after the band.

Watch Heaven's Metal for a feature story on these guys. I love 'em.

Stryper cont'd

"I can't take credit for anything, especially when someone gives their heart to the Lord. That's all God's doing. I want God to use me in any situation. I'm an evangelist, so that's what I'll do." (2 Timothy 4:5)

Damascus cont'd

their logo on it available in royal blue and purple for \$7.50. For any of these items, or to get their annotated newsletter, write to Damascus at 1112 Cherrywood, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056



THE LEAD

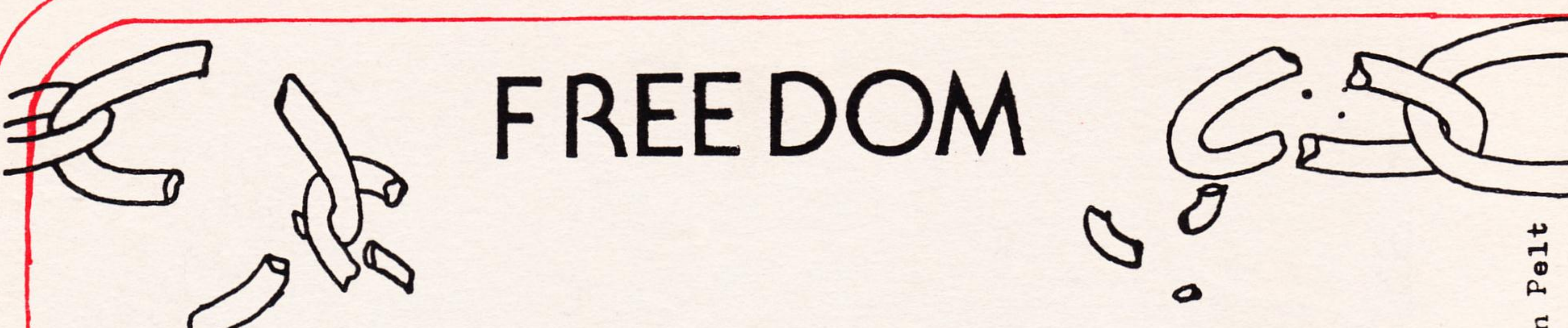
The Lead is a radical group from Florida. They are a combination of hardcore punk, speed metal and hard rock. The punk influence infiltrates every area of their music, which occasionally has some screaming and distorted guitars. The metal-head looking for that rough edge should get into The Lead.

The Lead formed about two years ago. Their current ministry is to play in clubs only. They are taking a bold stand in the darkness. They are doing the opposite of hiding their light under a bowl, they're shining it brightly in the darkness. (Matthew 5:15) The band consists of: Julio Rey on guitar; Robbie Christie on drums and vocals; and Nina Llopis on bass and vocals.

Their RETURN FIRE tape has 19 songs on it, all of which are as to-the-point lyrically as their music

is. LEAD US TO SALVATION, a two-minute and twelve-second song, states it plainly at the end of the song--"Get right!" Then Julio goes into a frantic guitar solo. BETTER OFF is another classic anti-abortion song in the same vein as SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS by Undercover. The first stanza says, "Better to have been a baby seal/ Than an unborn living baby human/ Baby shoulda been a seal/ Now he's dead like the 17 million."

If you'd like to order RETURN FIRE, which includes all lyrics, send \$4 to The Lead, P.O. Box 822, Coconut Grove, FLA 33123. (Make checks payable to The Lead.) They also have a four-song EP with folding poster sleeve with lyrics. It's \$2.50. This is an awesome tape to share with your hardcore friends. For only four dollars, it's a great and affordable ministry opportunity. (Pictured l-r= Julio, Nina & Robbie)



FREEDOM

Are you in bondage to sin? Do you find yourself, as Paul did, doing the things you don't want to do and not doing the things you want to do? Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin." (John 8:34) It may sound contradictory to say that committing sin makes you a slave of sin. You can choose to sin. That's freedom and not bondage, right? Wrong. When you commit sin, you are under the laws of sin. The laws of sin, in turn, condemns you. But, the good news is that Jesus can set you free from the laws of sin and of death. (Romans 8:2) "If therefore the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed." (John 8:36)

How do you become free? You admit you're a sinner, ask Jesus to set you free from the laws of sin and of death and you promise to make God the master over your life. This means you will be a slave of God, which is the greatest freedom you could ever have. This is the role you were meant to play. He is God, and He needs to be God over you. Only until this happens will you ever be free.

If you've already been set free from sin, remember "It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. (Galatians 5:1) Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God." (1Peter 2:16)

Want to subscribe? Or renew your subscription? Send \$4 to Doug Van Pelt, 902 Mayfield Lane, #107, Austin, TX 78757

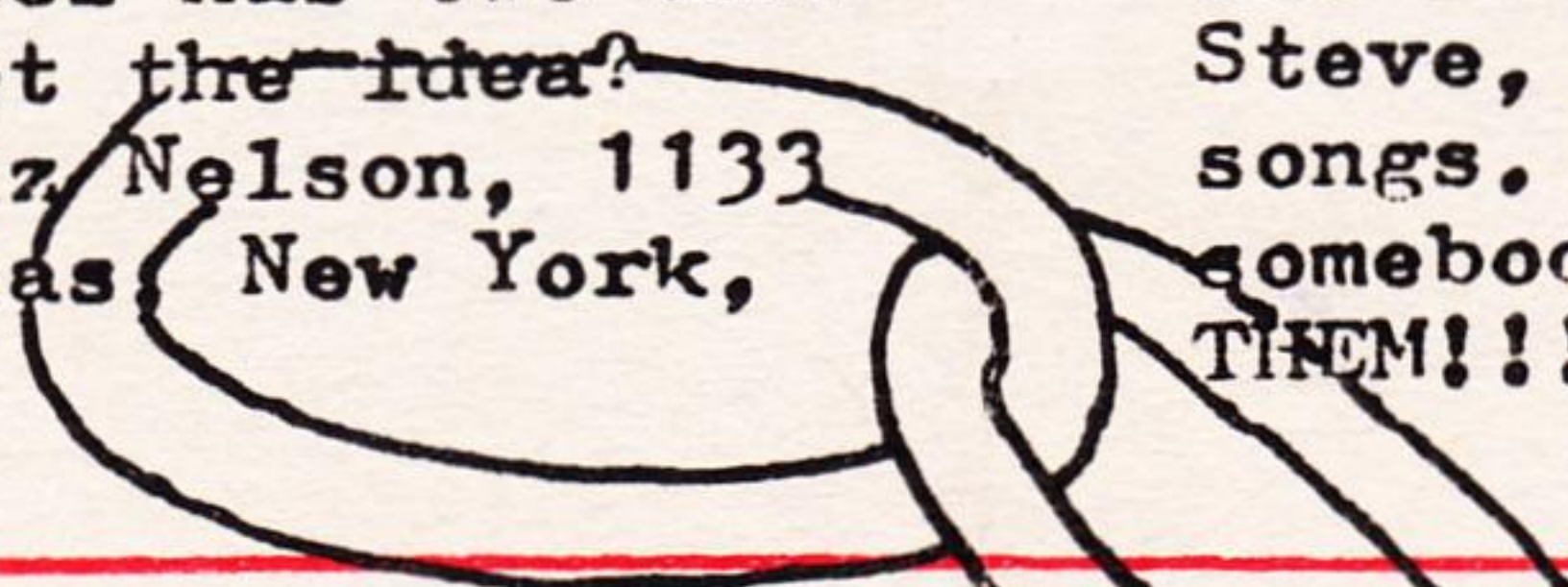
If you're from England, send \$5.25, Germany, France, Australia or other distant countries, send \$8. (For Airmail postage.)

Saint has a new album coming out on The Refuge Music Group's new label: Pure Metal. Gavin Morkel, of Refuge, tells me that the album cover art is radical. It has a picture of the beast rising from the sea on it. "It's not wimpy," he says.

Messiah Prophet has also signed with Pure Metal.

Petra's new live album, CAPTURED IN TIME AND SPACE, has a great "acid-rock" synthesizer solo on side 3, followed by a real good guitar solo. Check it out!

Write to MTV and tell them to play Christian videos. Stryper has two, Jerusalem has one, Leviticus has one, The 77's have two, Darrell Mansfield has two, Rez has two and Nylon has groups. Get the idea? Write: MTV, attn. Liz Nelson, 1133 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036.



I had the chance to see Barren Cross open up for Stryper in Pasadena, TX. They were TOTALLY AWESOME! They played a new song, called THE KILLING OF THE UNBORN, which isn't as much a song about abortion as it is about the forgiveness and healing Christ can give to a girl who has had an abortion. They also did a re-worked rendition of Jimi Hendrix's PURPLE HAZE. Instead of "Purple haze is in my brain," they sing "Jesus Christ is in my brain." Instead of "Excuse me, while I kiss the sky," it's "Excuse me, while I lift Him up." Instead of "whatever it is, that girl put a spell on me," it's "...He put a smile on me." It was really fun. Each member, minus Steve, did some preaching between songs. Look for BC to tour with somebody soon. By all means, GO SEE THEM!!!